

Summary: March 30, 2006 Board Meeting
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The members of the Higher Education Coordinating Board met at Western Washington University on March 30, 2006. Chairman Gene Colin presided. Highlights from the meeting include:

- **Presentation by Western Washington University President:** Dr. Karen Morse presented graphs to illustrate WWU's commitment to meeting statewide higher education goals contained in the 2004 Strategic Master Plan. Morse said that Western has experienced steady growth in the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded, degrees awarded in high-demand areas, and freshman graduation rates among ethnic minorities.
- **Action Agenda Items Approved:** The board unanimously approved the following items:
 - Minutes of the board's February meeting
 - New degree program for the UW, Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management
 - Amendments to board bylaws
- **Report by the League of Education Voters Foundation:** LEV Legislative Director George Scarola gave a presentation on the league's recently released report, "Turning Promise into Practice." The publication includes the first annual *Citizens' Report Card on Education*, which sets 10-year goals for student success and establishes a method to mark annual progress. The report card shows that access and affordability continue to be barriers for students in Washington.
- **Elimination of "50 Percent Rule":** Dr. Jim Sulton briefed the board on the status of various higher education programs and activities, including elimination of the "50 percent rule," which in the past prevented institutions that provide more than half of their programs via distance education from participating in federal student aid programs. The elimination of this rule is expected to improve access to postsecondary education and ultimately increase degree attainment.
- **Statewide Community Outreach:** Mr. Colin discussed the board's plan to hold a series of workshops all around the state – beginning in Vancouver in May – for the purpose of gathering information from legislators, educators and the general public regarding higher education issues. At the end of the year, information gathered from the meetings will be summarized in a report that could be used in the 2008 Strategic Master Plan.
- **Summary of 2006 Legislative Session:** HECB staff presented a summary of the 2006 legislative session, highlighting higher-education related bills that passed during the session.

- **The Role of Independent Colleges in Washington's Higher Education System:** Violet Boyer, president & CEO of the Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW), highlighted the contributions of private colleges and universities to Washington students, parents and families.
- **Accountability Framework Presentation:** HECB staff presented a proposal to revise the current accountability framework, which was adopted in 2005. The new framework also replaces the accountability provisions included in the 2005-07 operating budget.
- **2006 Supplemental Operating and Capital Budget:** HECB staff and Mr. Mike Worthy, chair of the fiscal committee, presented a summary of the 2006 supplemental operating and capital budgets.
- **Proposed Changes to State Rules – State Need Grant and State Work Study Programs:** Board staff reviewed proposed amendments to state rules for the State Need Grant and State Work Study programs to comply with changes in state law and make minor technical corrections. The board will consider adopting the rules during its meeting in July.

Materials presented at the meeting are available at <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp>

Next meeting: May 25, 2006, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Whitman College

- Discussion of the statewide role and mission for higher education
- Proposed adoption of high-demand grants
- Report on tuition waivers
- Proposal to amend rules regarding student residency requirements